



NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2021 held at 2:00 p.m.

I. Attendance:

The following Board Members were present:

Greg Lucero, President, Robert Rojas, Clerk; Members Manuel Ruiz, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr., and Cesar A. Lopez

a. Call to Order

Mr. Lucero called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Varona led all in the Pledge.

Superintendent Parra requested a point of order on a moment of silent for the passing of Rafael Siqueiros, Support Services employee, and Ms. Mary T. Lopez's father.

c. Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Rojas for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Rojas, Varona and Lucero

II. Approval of Governing Board Minutes of January 11, 2021

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Rojas made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ruiz for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Rojas, Ruiz, Varona and Lucero

III. Governing Board/Superintendent Information

a. Superintendent Report – Discussion, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member Mr. Cesar Lopez

Superintendent Parra postponed introduction of Mr. Lopez until he could join the meeting.

Mr. Lopez joined the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Superintendent Parra welcomed Mr. Cesar A. Lopez, former NUSD student, and

mentioned he was very involved in the school community. He gave a brief overview of his background.

Mr. Lucero on behalf of the Governing Board welcomed Mr. Lopez.

Mr. Lopez thanked all for his welcoming and mentioned some of the projects he has been working on with the students of NHS and Middle schools as part of his work with the community.

2. Reminder – The Governing Board Meeting of March is scheduled for March 1, 2021 to begin at 3:00 p.m.

Superintendent Parra reminded the Board that the next meeting would take place March 1, 2021, instead of March 22, 2021, and would have the next regular meeting on April 12, 2021. He added that if things continue to progress in a good way, there would be consideration of having the meeting in person.

Mr. Lucero mentioned that he may not be available for the meeting of March 1st, but would notify of any changes.

3. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Parra gave an update on all the good things happening in the District adding that many of these have already been shared with the Board by email. He highlighted that on the Consent Agenda Items, there were many Capital Projects to be approved and funded by the SFB for building improvements and infrastructures needs. He also mentioned that many more would be seen for roofing projects approved for the sites and weatherization projects.

He further mentioned the District continues to provide meals on wheels for the students and families and this year pre-packing meals would be distributed to have the families covered during the upcoming Spring Break.

He thanked Mr. Sandoval and Food service provider for having made this possible and coordinating this process through the state.

He further thanked the Governing Board for their trust and support of the recommendations and decisions the leadership has made in the best interest and safety of the school communities. He added he had shared by email, some positive comments received by teachers and parents to keep the Board informed the best possible.

He reported Nogales High School and Pierson High School had their virtual parent/teacher conferences and had been very successful, that there was a 60% participation at PHS and 80% at NHS.

He congratulated the IB students whom have presented their extended essays. He mentioned their presentations have been excellent and projects extremely well done with a diverse variety of topics. He thanked the teachers, counselors, parents, District leaders and Dr. Varona for volunteering as judges and make this program very successful.

He added that this year there were 33 students with many getting their bilingual diploma, which is one of the most difficult diploma to achieve.

He congratulated Coronado, Mary Welty, Lincoln, Challenger and Bracker Elementary Schools and Desert Shadows Middle School for having earned results base funding from accountability measures from the state.

He further reported the letter grades have been frozen for this school year also, due to teaching and learning disruptions because of the pandemic but State Assessments will

be conducted only for data purposes gathered through students' testing assessments. He mentioned that there would be an upcoming report to the Board given in the spring. He also gave an update on the City hillside erosion repair reporting that work had started on today.

In addition, he reported that Mr. Andrade, Director of Security, had completed a comprehensive audit of all the school district buildings for the safety and security of staff and students, including any safety issues or concerns that needed to be addressed and that he had done a great job.

He further reported that the District Leadership had met with Mr. Sandoval and the District Financial Advisor, Ms. Karin Smith, to review and prepare for a preliminary budget factors for SY2022 budget proposal and once again, there was a positive outlook without the need of any amendments or adjustments to the budget proposal. That the proposal will be presented to the Board later in the spring.

Furthermore, he reported that the District is ready to open the schools hybrid instruction right after Spring Break, March 15, 2021, following and implementing a reopening of schools plan that has been previously presented to the Board following all safety guidelines and recommendations and teachers and staff are ready to welcome the students.

He concluded by giving a summary of the safety plan implementation.

4. Update – Nogales High School AIA/Athletic Programs and Virtual Home Coming/Student Events – Student Recognitions – Mr. Colgate, Principal

Superintendent Parra introduced Mr. Colgate to give an update.

Mr. Tim Colgate reported that many good things were happening at NHS. He reported that home players are the only ones allowed to be at the games and games were being streamed on the Athletic Apache YouTube Page for everyone to watch from home. He reported that the boys' and the girls' basketball and the soccer teams were doing very well and they may be hosting a play-off game at the end of their season. He further mentioned the cheerleading team also had a virtual competition and were awaiting results. He also mentioned spring sports would begin in March also following all Covid testing protocols.

He further reported that last week there was a virtual homecoming crowning. Spring sports will start soon. Covid testing is being done as well to keep the students safe and healthy following all CDC guidelines. He thanked Mariposa Health Center for working with the school. He mentioned testing is being done for all athletes and personnel involved and that spring sports will begin on March 1st and was looking forward to a good season.

He further reported that the NHS Band under the direction of Donald Heaton four students had qualified for South Central Honor Band.

He reported that on the academic decathlon, this is the third year in the program and are up to 25,000 points having an increase of 10,000 points from the first year. He added that last year they had received the award for the most improved team and continue to improve, that they had just missed on the State Tournament Bid this year. He further mentioned that because they are very impressed with the academic decathlon, they have asked if NHS would be willing to host the 2022 Academic Decathlon Competition in the upcoming fiscal year 2021-2022 and that it was very exciting and furthermore, when the time comes, they will be reaching out of volunteers and judges.

Mr. Lucero thanked Mr. Colgate for the very positive report adding that he was happy to hear of all the positive things happening at NHS.

5. Update – NUSD and County Spelling Bee 2020-2021 – Ms. Canto, Assistance Superintendent

Superintendent Parra mentioned that he had previously sent to the Board a brief update of the winners and introduced Ms. Canto to give an updated report on how the Spelling Bee was conducted at NUSD.

Ms. Canto gave an update stating that this year the Spelling Bee had been virtual and it had been very successful with site coordinators doing a great job.

She gave a Power Point presentation explaining what went on during the Spelling Bee. She mentioned the winners, 1st place, Michael Pentland, 2nd place Felix Ibarra and 3rd place, Carlos Lizarraga. She further stated that Michael Pentland would be participating at the State Bee on March 20, 2021 representing DSMS, Nogales Unified School District and Santa Cruz County.

She concluded by congratulating the five students who participated in the VFW contest and the teachers and volunteers

6. 100th Day Enrollment Report – Ms. Mendoza-Jimenez, Student Services Director

Superintendent Parra gave a brief background and introduced Ms. Mendoza-Jimenez to give a report.

He reported the decrease of students and the modifications that have been needed in the places where there has been required.

He introduced Ms. Mendoza-Jimenez to give a Power Point presentation.

Ms. Mendoza-Jimenez reported the 100th enrollment based on the January 19, 2021 date.

Superintendent Parra concluded by mentioning that the online schooling had started with only three students and it has grown, and therefore he believed the District made a good investment.

He added that the District had lost some students making it a very challenging year, but he was with hopes that once the pandemic is in control more students will return, including students under open enrollment and rural areas whom have chosen to come to NUSD making a difference for our schools.

Mr. Rojas asked if any equipment had been lost during the loss of student.

Superintendent Parra replied that yes, there had been some losses but, that technology was trying to retrieve those items back and were being reported to the Trust/Insurance as well.

Dr. Varona made some comments regarding the loss of students from last year and stated that even though the administration has been doing a great job with the finances, he suggested that Mr. Sandoval and Ms. Canto possibly present a three to five year financial strategic plan to prepared for a scenario decline like this and have everyone informed.

Mr. Lucero directed Superintendent Parra to prepare something as a future agenda item with the adequate wording to discuss what is happening at the State Legislature, the financial impact and the decline of students.

b. Governing Board Report, Celebration, Recognition, Announcements

Dr. Varona complemented and highlighting four items made with the great leadership of Superintendent Parra.

1. The great consideration of the families during Spring Break by delivering meals to all the families in times of need. 2. The International Baccalaureate having a historic 33 students when back in 1987/88 when Dr. Varona was Assistant Principal at Nogales High School they started with two students. He congratulated Ms. Valenzuela for doing a great job. 3. He mentioned his disagreement with the State Results Base funding, and stated that in his opinion that fund should be spread out. He congratulated Superintendent Parra for his leadership and ending up with six schools who qualified for funding under the legislative framework.

4. He concluded by directing to the Board that the District was able to install the ventilation system when he didn't think it would be possible to do it at this fast rate and without having to disrupt the infrastructure and finding the adequate technology. He congratulated the Superintendent and Leadership Team for their visionary leadership. He requested that Ms. Canto look into House Bill #2435 regarding School Board Membership – requirements to become a Board Member and bring back a clarification to the Board.

He reported he judged the IB Essays and mentioned that these students are excellent and stated his names for the record and the essay presentation titles.

He mentioned he had asked Ms. Canto to have some students participate in the ASBA student contest along with Grand Canyon University on its 300-Word Essay explaining what is going on in your community that is engaging and has inspired you to be change agents in your community.

He reported the participation of DSMS with their Hope for the Holidays Project; Coronado Elementary participation with their Abrijes Club; Mary Welty Elementary students participation in getting involved with new students to get to know the school better before coming aboard; NHS STUCCO participation in a project in community's needs; Robert Bracker Elementary participation in community project clean-up. On behalf of the Board, he congratulated all the schools and students for their participation with these powerful community projects, hoping they are very competitive and they win on March 1, 2021.

He also suggested to Superintendent Parra the possible participation in the Golden Bell Award.

Mr. Ruiz also stated his concern on the Legislature trying to change governance group requirements.

Mr. Lucero echoed Dr. Varona's and Mr. Ruiz's comments and stated there is a need to pay more attention to the Legislature matters and maybe place on the agenda some of the issues in order that the Board can have some say so about what is going on and give more information to its constituents.

Mr. Lopez had no report.

Mr. Ruiz asked if the bulleting received by the Board from ASBA could be posted on the website for the constituents' information.

Superintendent Parra stated it was possible and he would make sure it is posted on the website and on Facebook.

Superintendent Parra mentioned he is an active member of the ASBA Superintendents' committee who reviews policies in place and ASBA also, when they object to something, they represent all Governing Boards in the State and have a spokesperson as the association.

IV. Call to the Public

There was no call to the public.

V. Consent Agenda

Superintendent Parra recommended approval as presented with exception of item "F".

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Rojas for approval.

Motion carried unanimously by members:

Ruiz, Rojas, Varona, Lopez and Lucero

- a. Ratification of Expense/Payroll Vouchers
- b. Approval & Acceptance of School Facilities Board (SFB) Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Additional Funds for Pierson High School HVAC Repair Project
- c. Approval & Acceptance of School Facilities Board (SFB) Building Renewal Grant (BRG) Additional Funds for AJ Mitchell Elementary School Weatherization Project
- d. Renewal of Award of Sole Source Status to Rosetta Stone for FY20-21
- e. Approval of Personnel Agenda Summary
- f. **Approval of 2021-2022 School Year Calendar**

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Varona.

Dr. Varona asked if there had been any calls objecting to the calendar.

Mrs. Zuniga clarified his concern stating there had been no calls of objection.

Motion carried unanimously by Members:

Ruiz, Varona, Rojas, Lopez and Lucero

- g. Teacher Evaluation System Verification Statement of Assurance
- h. Approval of Student Placement Agreement with Northern Arizona

VI. Action – None

VII. Information and Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Suspension of Governing Board Policy BGB Policy Adoption for Amendment and Revision of Policy JJE – Student Fund-Raising Activities

Superintendent Parra reminded the Board that a copy was previously provided to them for their review.

Mrs. Zufiga explained the items and mentioned it was a housekeeping item in order to be in compliance.

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Varona for approval as presented. Dr. Varona mentioned his concern regarding the parent groups that do fund raising for the students and asking for a possible liquor permits.

Superintendent Parra clarified his concern and mentioned that liquor sales had been taken care of at the sites' level and it would not be an issue because liquor was not an option.

Motion carried unanimously by members:
Ruiz, Varona, Rojas, Lopez and Lucero

VIII. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Dr. Varona asked for information on Mr. Andrade's outline on elementary school security. He also asked for a budget strategic plan and student enrollment projection, when it is time to start working with the new fiscal year budget.

Superintendent Parra mentioned that he would do a presentation on his requests including Mr. Andrade's report on the security and safeguard of the schools at a later time.

Mr. Lucero asked for a possible Board Retreat in the near future.

Mr. Parra mentioned that he was working on the retreat with a possible date in June pending the outcome on the Covid cases.

IX. Adjournment of the Study Session

Mr. Ruiz made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Varona for adjournment of the public meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by members:
Ruiz, Varona, Rojas, Lopez and Lucero

Session adjourned at 3:29 p.m.


APPROVED BY THE BOARD



Greg Lucero President



Robert S. Rojas Clerk



Manny Ruiz Member



Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr. Member



Cesar A. Lopez Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary T. Lopez, Secretary
April 12, 2021

(For exact statements made during the Board Meeting, you may request a copy of the DVD)